

Amendment in LIC Act, 1956

*193. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the Life Insurance Corporation of India has been able to meet its solvency requirement margin as mandated by the IRDA norms at 150 per cent;

(b) whether the LIC has sought the approval of Government for an amendment in the LIC Act, 1956 to build up reserves to meet contingencies under the solvency margin requirements; and

(c) whether Government are also contemplating to withdraw its Sovereign Guarantee binding all LIC policies, paving way for a level-playing field for the life insurance sector both public and private?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that as at 31st March, 2006, it has provided solvency margin of 130% against 150% as mandated by Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA).

(b) Yes, Sir. LIC proposed an amendment to the LIC Act, 1956, to enable it to build up reserves.

(c) No, Sir.

Promotion of eco-tourism

*194. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme/programme for promoting eco-tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time-frame by when the policy would be prepared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKASONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism has already taken following action for promoting eco-tourism in the country.